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By the King.

A Proclamation for the well ordering and setting the Manufacture of Soape, vnder a Rule and Gouvernment.



Hereas Wee haue heretofore declared by sundry Proclamations, Our princely care for the advancement of the naturall Commodities of Our Kingdomes, the imployment of many of Our poore people, and for the reformation of diuers former Abuses, in making and uttering of Soape, to which end wee haue reduced the manufacture thereof vnder the rule and gouernment of the Society of Soape-makers of Westminster formerly established by our letters patents: And haue notwithstanding found by dayly experience that many factious and re-

fractorie persons, forgetting the naturall dutie and obedience which they owe to our Royall Com- mandements, haue not onely frequently disobeyed the same, but haue also studied and practised diuers new wayes to hinder the due and orderly managing of so necessary a worke, and thereby to frustrate Our good and gracious intentions towards Our louing Subjects, for remedie whereof, and for the better preventing, and suppressing the practises of such malicious persons in their lewde attempts: wee haue resolved, with the aduise of Our priuie Councill, to settle and establish the manufacture of Soape vnder a rule and gouernment.

Wee doe therefore hereby straightly charge and command, that no person or persons, of what quality or condition soener, other then such who are, or shalbe free of the Company of Gouvernour, Assistants, and Fellowes of the Society of Soape makers of Westminster, or such who shall make Soape, by, and vnder the rule and gouernment of the said Company, doe at any time hereafter presume to make or suffer to be made, any kinde of Soape, or doe make, prepare, or draw, or suffer to be made, prepared, or drawne, any Lees for the making of any kinde of Soape whatsoever, in their priuate houses, or doe make, prepare, or draw, or cause to be made, prepared, or drawne, any Soape, or Lees, in any other place, or places whatsoever, either for their owne vse, or otherwise, vpon paine of forfeiture of all such Soape and Lees, respectiue, and such further punishments as may be inflicted vpon the contemners, and breakers of Our Royall Command and Au- thoritie.

And wee doe hereby Authorize, Require and Command the said Gouvernour, Assistants, and fellowes of the said Societie of Soape-makers of Westminster, their Agents, Officers, and Ser- uants, that from time to time they cause diligent search and inquiry to be made in any place or pla- ces whatsoever, as well within Liberties as without, for all, or any Soape, of what kinde

soever, that is, hath, or shall be made, sold or vended, as also for all or any Lees made, prepared or drawne, or which shall be made, prepared or drawne by any person or persons whatsoever, and not by and vnder the rule and government of the said Society, and all such Soape and Lees respectively to take, seize and carry away, And afterwards to destroy the same, or otherwise to reboyle or amend, to make them blefull and serviceable.

And because the said Governour Assistants and Fellowship of Soape-makers are forced to be at excessive Charges by imployment of severall men in searching, seizing and other discovery of Soape made or put to Sale contrary to the Tenour of this and other Our former Proclamations; Wee are therefore well pleased that the said Company shall reward their Informers, Agents and Seizers of such Soape and Lees with or out of the same or part thereof, or the benefit that shall be made thereof.

And wee doe hereby also straightly charge and command that no person or persons whatsoever, either Our owne naturall borne Subjects, Denizens, or Strangers, Marchants, Artificers or any other, doe hereafter importe or bring in, or attempt to importe or bring into this Our Kingdome of England or Dominion of Wales from Our Kingdomes of Scotland or Ireland, or from any forraigne parts any manner or kind of Soape hard or soft whatsoever, vpon paine of forfeiture of all such Soape to be so imported, and such further penalties and punishments as in cases of like nature are vsually inflicted vpon the contemners of Our Royall command and authority.

And for the better performance and execution hereof; Wee doe further charge and command all and singular the Officers of Our Customes within all and every the Portes and Hauens of Our said Kingdome and Dominions, and the Creeks and members thereof, as also within Our Cinque Ports and the members thereof, that they and euery of them do not onely forbear to take any Entry or Entries or giue any Bill or Warrant for vnlading or landing of any Soape prohibited as aforesaid; but doe also cause Seizure and stay to be made thereof to Our vse vpon paine of forfeiture of his or their Offices respectively, & vndergoing Our heauy displeasure and such other punishments as their neglects and contempts herein shall be found to deserue.

And we do hereby further straightly charge and command all Grocers, Salters, Chandlers, Retaylers of Soape and all others that deale in Soape, that they presume not to receiue, keepe, buy, vnder, vse or spend any Soape of what kinde soeuer but that which is or shall bee made by the said Governour, Assistants and Fellowes of the said Corporation, or by and vnder their rule and government, and that no person or persons other then by and vnder the rule and government aforesaid, doe presume to make, prepare, draw or sell any Lees for the vse of making any Soape, vpon paine of forfeiture of the sayd Soape and Lees respectively, and also vpon paine of incurring Our heauy displeasure, and such punishment as their contempt in that behalfe shall deserue.

And whereas the Governour, Assistants, and Fellowes of the Society aforesaid, by their Searchers and Subordinate Officers do vsually meete with and find persons of meane and needy condition, who are imployed by other men of better abilitie and estates, thereby disguising themselves in making of Soape, and drawing of Lees, not vnder the Rule and Government of the said Corporation;

Wee doe therefore hereby further declare that the Owners, Lessees, and Inhabitants of all and euery such house and houses, where any such Soape shall be made, or Lees made, prepared, or drawn by any person or persons whatsoever, not by, and vnder the Rule and Government of the

said Corporation, as well as the owners of such Soape and Lees, shall be proceeded against in Our Court of Starre-Chamber, as contemners of Our Royall pleasure and Command.

And for the better discovery of all and every the said Offenders, wee doe hereby Authorize, will, and Command the said Gouvernour, Assistants, and Fellowes of the said Society, their Officers, Ministers, and Seruants, to enter into any Houses, Cellars, Shoppes, Ware-houses, or other places whatsoever, and there to search, seize, take and carry away any Soape unmarked by the said Company, or not made vnder the Rule and Government of the said Company, or any Lees for the making of Soape, not made and drawne vnder the said Rule and Government.

And whereas wee haue by some of Our said former Proclamations commanded that all the Fats, Pannes, and Vessels set vp, or that should be set vp, or employed for the making, or boyling of Soape, contrary to the said Letters Patents, and Proclamations should be pulled vp by the Owners of them, before the Feast of the Virgin Mary then next comming, and thence past;

Now for the better preventing auoyding and hindering the making of any manner of Soape and the making, preparing, or drawing of any Lees contrary to the Tenor and Intention of this Our Proclamation; Our will and Pleasure is, and wee doe hereby straightly charge and command the said Gouvernour, Assistants, and Fellowes of the said Societie of Soape-makers of Westminster, their Agents, Officers and Seruants, to breake, deface, or destroy all Pannes, Pots, Lee-Tubs, Fats, Cisternes, and other Vessels, employed and set vp, or that shall be employed or set vp, for making of Soape, or for making, preparing, or drawing of Lees to make Soape in any house or houses, or other place or places whatsoever, as well within Liberties as without, by any person or persons whatsoever, not free of the said Society of Soape-makers of Westminster, or such persons who shall make Soape, or draw Lees, by and vnder the Rule and Government of the said Company.

And wee doe hereby straightly charge and command all Mayors, Sheriffes, Justices of the Peace, Bayliffes, Constables, Headboroughes, and all other Our Officers, Ministers and loving Subjects whatsoever that from time to time without excuse or delay they readily and diligently attend and giue their aid and assistance in the due and full execution of all and every the premises, when they shall be thereunto required.

And wee doe withall hereby require Our Attorney generall, that from time to time he carefully proceed in our court of Starre-chamber against all or any such person and persons that shall presume to offend or not yeeld obedience to Our Command in the premises.

Giuen at Our Court at Whitehall, the five and twentieth day of Ianuary in the tenth yeere of Our Reigne.

God saue the King.

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